

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
SANTA CLARA COUNTY
JUVENILE COURT DIVISION**

FILED

JAN 03 2017

Clerk of the Court
Superior Court of CA County of Santa Clara
BY _____ DEPUTY

**Termination of Appointment
Juvenile Informal Traffic Court Hearing Officer
Reorganization of Informal Interventions
for Truancy, Misdemeanors and Infractions**

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Welfare and Institutions Code Section 255 provides that the Court may appoint as a subordinate judicial officer one or more persons of suitable experience, who may be a probation officer or assistant or deputy probation officers, to serve as a juvenile hearing officer on a full-time or part-time basis. Such officers serve at the pleasure of the court.


After having thoroughly examined the role of the Administrative Hearing Officer in the Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Court System, the Court, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, the Juvenile Probation Department, and School District Representatives found that the role is no longer supportive of families and youth in Santa Clara County. Although cutting edge when it was developed, it is no longer consistent with our juvenile justice reform efforts to create equity for all families.

It is the desire of the stakeholders listed above to stop imposing administrative fees, penalty assessments, fines and driver's license suspensions for status offenses, low level infractions and misdemeanors which research has shown to cause recidivism and further involvement in the Juvenile Justice Systems. There were also numerous *court dates* set during school hours that caused further hardship to families.

Therefore, beginning January 3, 2017, all truancy matters will be handled informally by the District Attorney's Office and/or the school site, all non-traffic infractions and misdemeanors (except Driving Under the Influence cases which will be handled by the Juvenile Court Judge) will be sent to the Juvenile Probation Department's Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Unit for informal handling, and all traffic infractions will be heard in the Adult Traffic Court.

This Order further terminates the use of the Informal Juvenile Traffic Court and the Juvenile Traffic Hearing Officer(s) in Santa Clara County as of January 3, 2017.

So Ordered:


**Judge Katherine Lucero, Supervising Judge
Juvenile Justice Division.**

Date:

January 3, 2017